

List of Current Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) An input unit for a field device, comprising:
a registering unit serving as an electronic identifier of a user, which enables a definite identification of the user; and
means for connecting said registering unit to the field device of process automation technology, wherein:
said electronic identifier is a signature and the signature serves for the signing of electronic documents; and
said registering unit has a display and the signature is entered by the user by hand via said display.

Claims 13 and 14 (Cancelled).

15. (Currently amended) The input unit as claimed in claim ~~13~~ 12, further comprising:
a portable transmitter, wherein:
the signature is transferred from said portable transmitter via radio transmission to said registering unit.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

17. (Previously presented) The input unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein:
the input unit is implemented as a field device.

18. (Previously presented) A transmitting unit for process automation technology, to an input unit having a registering unit, comprising:
means for storing an electronic signature of the user therein, and wirelessly transmitting the signature to said registering unit.

19. (Currently Amended) An input unit as claimed in claim 12,
wherein:
[[it]] the input unit satisfies the FDA certification regulations 21 CFR Part 11 Rules.

20. (Previously presented) The input unit as claimed in claim 12,
wherein:
the input unit is connectable to a communications network.

21. (Currently amended) The input unit as claimed in claim ~~14~~ 12,
wherein:
electronic documents shown on said display can, using inputs via the display, be signed, and/or annotated, in handwriting by the user.

22. (Currently amended) The input unit as claimed in claim ~~14~~ 12,
wherein:
annotations to the electronic documents are saved such that they are unchangeable, and/or provided with the clock-time of the input.